

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## ANALYSIS—MAJORITY RULE INITIATIVE (PROPOSITION 105)

### Description:

Proposition 105 would amend the Arizona Constitution to prohibit an initiative measure from establishing or increasing a tax or fee, or creating any mandatory spending obligation, unless the measure is approved by a majority of qualified registered voters.

### Analysis:

The Majority Rule Initiative (Proposition 105) ought to be called the “Minority Rule Initiative.”

- Proposition 105 will weaken the rule of the majority on ballot initiatives that raise taxes, fees or spending by requiring that they receive a majority of votes from all registered voters to be adopted. Every registered voter not voting would be counted as a “no” vote, including every registered voter who had died or moved, but is still on the voter rolls at the time of the election.
- The Majority Rule Initiative not only removes the will of the majority voting for initiatives raising revenue or spending, but it discriminates by not holding all initiatives, including those that would lower taxes, fees or spending, to the same voting standard.
- The required vote threshold is nearly impossible to meet. During a typical General Election, only 45%-65% of voters turn out. If less than 50% of voters turn out, no initiative raising revenue or spending could ever be adopted. Even if there was a 65% turnout, it would take nearly 77% of those voting to approve the initiative. Since 1974, only the Congressional/State Elected Official Term Limits initiative obtained better than 75% voter approval. Initiatives adopted since 1974, but which would have been defeated if the Majority Rule Initiative had been in effect, include:
  - First Things First
  - Children’s Health Care
  - Prevention and Family Support
  - Smoking Ban
  - Increase in Minimum Wage
  - Indian Gaming
  - Heritage Fund, and
  - Independent Redistricting Commission
- The Majority Rule Initiative overturns the concept of representative democracy by majority rule and, instead, gives the power to deny raising revenue and/or spending to a minority of the electorate. When there is a relatively high turnout (65%), it takes only 24% voting against an initiative to defeat what the majority of voters feel is an investment in Arizona’s future.
- It can be argued that any ballot initiative imposes some kind of added implementation cost, so all initiatives could be in jeopardy of having to meet the standard of having to obtain a majority of registered voters.

## EXAMPLE

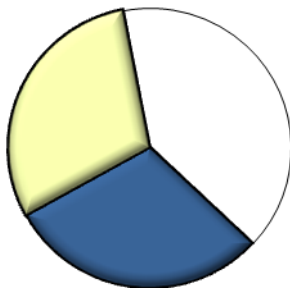
- A Initiative raising revenues and/or spending
- B Initiative reducing revenues and/or spending

**Assumes 60% Voter Turnout**  
**(2,000,000 Registered Voters)**

Circle reflects all registered voters.  
 Colored sections reflect those registered voters actually voting.

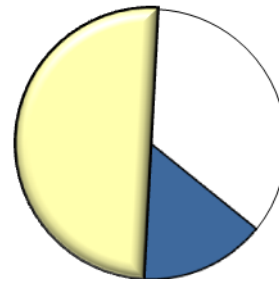
### **Initiative A**

*Before Prop. 105*



■ Requires 50% + 1 of those voting

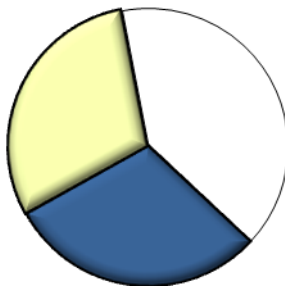
*After Prop. 105*



■ Requires 83% + of those voting and 50% + 1 of registered voters

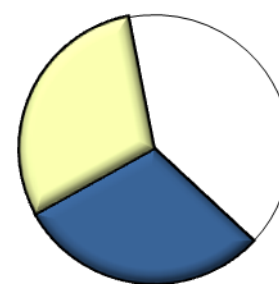
### **Initiative B**

*Before Prop. 105*



■ Requires 50% + 1 of those voting

*After Prop. 105*



■ Requires 50% + 1 of those voting and only 30% + 1 of registered voters